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Man Arraigned For Alleged Birthday Party Stabbing

A Sylmar man ordered to stand trial for the stabbing death of a 19-year-old man at a house party was arraigned today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

David Gage Silva, 21 (dob 4/19/92), pleaded not guilty to one count of murder with an allegation that he personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife.

The defendant, charged in case PA075013, is scheduled to return for a pretrial hearing on Feb. 3 in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

Silva was held to answer on Dec. 17 following a two-day preliminary hearing.

The alleged stabbing occurred at a birthday party on Oct. 28, 2012, in the 13300 block of Sayre Street in Sylmar. The victim, Anthony Hernandez, was at the party as a friend of an invited guest. The defendant also had been invited to attend the celebration.

Prosecutors allege that as the party was winding down an argument ensued and a fight broke out in the garage. Police found Hernandez lying on the walkway in front of the house.

During the preliminary hearing, witnesses testified that Silva ran away from the house when he heard the stabbing victim was dying. Silva was later seen attempting to discard a knife and the shirt he wore at the party, according to witness testimony.

Deputy District Attorney Ani Bailey is assigned to the case. The matter remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Mission Detective Division.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Hayden Zacky set his bail at \$1.02 million. If convicted as charged, Silva faces a maximum state prison sentence of 16 years to life.

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Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.